

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W
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O 011252Z SEP 76 ZFF-6
FM USDEL SECRETARY IN NEW YORK
TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO

CONFIDENTIAL SECTO 25003

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, CA, EG
SUBJECT: MESSAGE FROM SECSTATE TO SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

1. PLEASE TRANSMIT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM ME TO SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MACEACHEN.

2. BEGIN TEXT. DEAR ALLAN: I AM WRITING TO YOU ABOUT A PROBLEM FOR WHICH I AM SURE WE SHARE CONCERN. IT RELATES TO THE PROGRESSIVE AND STABILIZING ROLE PLAYED BY EGYPT IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND EGYPT'S CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE IN ASSURING A HEALTHY COURSE OF EVENTS IN THE REGION.

3. AS YOU ARE AWARE, PRESIDENT SADAT INHERITED MAJOR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. HIS GOVERNMENT HAS SHOWN THAT IT WISHES TO FOCUS ITS ATTENTION ON RECONSTRUCTION, ECONOMIC STABILITY AND GROWTH. WE BELIEVE THIS WILL BE A DIFFICULT BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE TASK, ESPECIALLY IF EGYPT RECEIVES SUFFICIENT ASSISTANCE.

4. AS YOU ARE ALSO AWARE, EGYPT LACKS SUFFICIENT FOREIGN EXCHANGE TO SUSTAIN ITS ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND UNDERTAKE A LONG-RANGE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. EGYPT NEEDS IMMEDIATE FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO COVER ITS REQUIREMENTS EVEN FOR THE CURRENT STANDARD OF LIVING OF ITS PEOPLE.

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5. WITH THIS IN MIND, WE HAVE MADE A SUBSTANTIAL COMMITMENT TO ASSIST EGYPT. OUR BILATERAL PROGRAMS WILL AMOUNT TO ABOUT 900 MILLION DOLLARS FOR THIS FISCAL YEAR AND WE PLAN THE SAME LEVEL FOR THE COMING FISCAL YEAR. AS PART OF OUR ASSISTANCE, WE ARE GIVING EGYPT DURING THIS FISCAL YEAR AND TRANSITIONAL QUARTER 1.25 MILLION TONS OF WHEAT AND FLOUR ON VIRTUALLY GRANT TERMS, 40 YEAR REPAYMENT, 10 YEAR GRACE PERIOD, 2 TO 3 PERCENT INTEREST.

6. IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IF THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA WOULD PROVIDE A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF WHEAT ON GRANT OR CONCESSIONAL LOAN TERMS TO THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT DURING THESE DIFFICULT TIMES.

7. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR PERSONAL ATTENTION TO THIS PROBLEM OF SOME URGENCY AND LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU.

8. WARM REGARDS, HENRY A. KISSINGER. END MESSAGE.
KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECTO, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 SEP 1976
Decapton Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decapton Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SECTO25003
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760331-1291
From: SECRETARY NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197609101/aaaadiuk.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MESSAGE FROM SECSTATE TO SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, PSDC, CA, EG, US, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (MACEACHEN, ALLAN)
To: OTTAWA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006